

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
2700 Suwannee Canal Road
Folkston, GA 31537
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<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>

News Release



For Immediate Release

Date: October 1, 2019

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Supervisory Refuge Ranger

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Seeking Public Input to Consider Opening Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge to Hunting

Folkston, GA....The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering opening the Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge to hunting. The public is being invited to provide input that should be considered in the development of the hunt plan. Initial considerations of this proposal could include American Alligator hunting two weekends during the Georgia alligator hunting season – for a total of six hunting days in accordance with State regulations. Biological surveys conducted on the refuge indicate that the lake and surrounding wetlands should support a limited alligator hunt. Any proposed hunting opportunities would be managed in accordance with all state regulations.

Comments collected during this period will be incorporated to the extent practicable. The draft hunt plan, once completed, would also be provided to the public for further review and comment.

The public is encouraged to provide input by writing to: 2700 Suwannee Canal Road Folkston, GA 31537; or may email Okefenokee@fws.gov. Please put “Public Input-Banks Lake Hunting” in the subject line of the email.

Comments will be accepted until November 1, 2019.

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The Main Entrance (Suwannee Canal Recreation Area) to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is the primary entrance managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is located 11 miles southwest of Folkston, GA off Hwy 121/23. Entrance fees are \$5 per vehicle/\$1 per bicycle for a daily pass (good for 7 days). Annual passes are also available. The refuge is open daily and offers a variety of opportunities for the visiting public. Call 912-496-7836 or visit the refuge website at www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee for hours of operation, upcoming events, and entrance fee information.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook pages at www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge or www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast